

# **Recycling Public Advisory Council**

## **Final Meeting Minutes for Monday, March 24, 2014**

Location: DNREC Lewes Facility, 901 Pilottown Road, Lewes, DE

Members present: BJ Vinton, Chairman (CSWSC)  
Dick Cecil (DE Association of Counties)  
Marianne Cinaglia (DelEASI)  
Marjorie Crofts (DNREC)  
Kelly Davis (Educator, DelTech-Owens Campus)  
Michael Fusca (Alcohol Beverage Industry)  
Stan Mills (League of Local Governments)  
Mike Parkowski (DSWA)  
Coralie Pryde (League of Women Voters)  
Bob Ziegler (Waste Hauler Industry)

Members absent: Julie Miro Wenger (Del. Food Industry Council)  
Paul Bickhart (Recycling Industry)  
George Danneman (Soda Beverage Industry)  
Brenna Goggin (Delaware Nature Society)  
Basil Kollias (DE Chamber of Commerce)  
Carrie Leishman (Restaurant Industry)

Non-members present:	Jim Short (DNREC)	Bill Miller (DNREC)
	Nancy Marker (DNREC)	Kim Foster (DNREC)
	Terry McBride (Burns & McBride)	Allen Thienpont (Waste Industries)
	Kurt Pilarski (Waste Management)	P.J. Chipman (Waste Management)
	Elizabeth Nestle (Zero Waste Team)	Grace Long (Zero Waste Team)

BJ Vinton called the meeting to order at approximately 1:40 P.M.

### **Public Comments**

Elizabeth Nestle of the Zero Waste Team presented a challenge to everyone in the room to separate the organic portion of their waste for a week. She provided information and compostable bags for all those willing to accept the challenge. RPAC members commended her for her efforts and encourage her and the Zero Waste Team to continue to advocate for increased diversion of organic waste.

### **Approval of Minutes January 14, 2014 Meeting**

BJ amended the fourth paragraph under "Old/New Business" regarding his comments on RPAC open seats. Stan will be rightfully added to the last sentence under "Recycling Grant Scoring Subcommittee Synopsis". The minutes were unanimously approved with these edits.

### **Yard Waste Funding**

Marj announced that DNREC has been operating the Polly Drummond Hill Yard Waste Site with Universal Recycling funding. DNREC had only intended to do this in anticipation of monies from DNREC's Penalty Fund to reimburse the Universal Recycling monies. Unfortunately, the Penalty Fund is much smaller than it has been previously and its funding is restricted. DNREC cannot use the Penalty Fund for reimbursement. Approximately \$280,836 has already been spent on the yard waste site out of Universal Recycling funding, which covered most of 2013 and about half of 2012. Another \$480,000 is encumbered to be spent out of Universal Recycling funding to cover the operations of the site for 2014 and 2015, representing an annual cost of \$240,000. DNREC issued a formal RFP for operations and this is the lowest cost of competitive bids. Marj

added that the General Assembly has provided DNREC \$100,000 and is expected to provide it again, reducing the \$480,000 to \$280,000. DNREC is also working to convince the legislators that another \$140,000 per year is needed to fully fund the yard waste sites. These are minimal, no frills, operational costs to keep the sites open. DNREC is continuing to look for ways to transition the site to the private sector. Marj apologized to the RPAC, on behalf of DNREC, for not bringing these issues to RPAC's attentions sooner. Stan asked about the original intention of DNREC's yard waste sites. Marj said they were to resist pushback on the Cherry Island Landfill yard waste ban. The sites were designed as temporary. Bob Z. said there is not a waste hauler around that supports the site. He added that it is detrimental to homeowners with curbside yard waste collection because the biggest factor in cost cutting is route density, and the yard waste drop-off site works against that. Kelly asked about how legislators outside of that geographical area feel. Mike P. thought if other legislators knew about the circumstances they would be against it. He said the real conversation should be that an alternative exists only 5 miles away. The Holland Mulch site off of Route 72 was funded by a Universal Recycling Grant to be an alternative to both the Polly Drummond site and the former site at the DART facility. BJ commented that DNREC is not in a firm position to make arguments to close the Polly Drummond Hill Road Yard Waste Site and suggested RPAC make that argument with support from DSWA and the waste haulers. Members seemed to agree and BJ said he would draft a letter for review and discussion at next meeting.

#### **Status of Grant Awards Process**

Kim F. announced that 12 of 14 contracts have been mailed out for awardee signature. DNREC is finalizing the last two and expects to send them out in the next week. Bill added that the grant scoring subcommittee and DNREC were interested in opening the next grant application period in late summer or early fall. Bill said DNREC would engage the subcommittee but asked anyone interested to participate or submit comments.

#### **Recycling in Government Offices/Facilities**

BJ announced that he will be forming a subcommittee to target specific areas to help improve recycling in these settings. Coralie and other folks were interested.

#### **Legislative Happenings**

Marj shared that legislation (H.B. 198) was introduced last year that would modify the plastic bag bill by removing the sunset date and by allowing local governments to establish their own bag legislation. More recently, H.B. 198 was amended to remove the option for local governments. When discussed in the Senate last week, Representative Brady wasn't there to answer questions, so the discussion was tabled.

#### **RPAC Membership Vacancies**

BJ announced that the restaurant industry position will hopefully be filled by next meeting. He added that he continues to work with the President of the Chamber of Commerce to fill their seat, but he has not made a lot of headway. Several other Members' terms expire this coming August.

#### **Recycling Market Update**

Mike P. said single-stream prices are way down. Haulers are actually paying a few dollars per ton for recycling in Kent and Sussex Counties. Haulers bringing waste to the facility in New Castle County are only getting paid about \$1.90 per ton. When prices were historically strong, they were about ten times that value.

#### **Old/New Business**

BJ asked about the status recycling adoption in the commercial sector. Bob Z. said not much new with larger companies that tend to already have recycling in place, but there has been a significant increase in recycling among the smaller businesses. Kurt P. largely agreed but has had some pushback with a few industrial accounts that not sure what is expected. Bill offered to help explain and give some examples. Allen T. said recycling in the commercial sector is going extremely well. BJ

#### **Additional Public Comments**

None

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2014 at 1:30 in Kent County at a location to be determined.

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.